

CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Name: JGL Farms water development project

Proposed Implementation Date: Spring 2008

Proponent: JGL Farms, Inc. RT 3, Box 352 Conrad, MT 59425

Type and Purpose of Action: To implement a new water source on the below described tract of land. The water source will be via a ground water well located approximately 5000' south east on private surface. Impact to the state surface will be the installation of approximately 2200' of 1 inch pipe, and one 250 gallon tank. The purpose of this proposal is to enhance better livestock distribution. A detailed map showing the project lay out is included within this assessment.

Location: T30N – R2W – Sec 1

County: Pondera

Common Schools

I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

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| 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project. | DNRC, Surface owner
JGL Farms, Inc. Surface Lessee and proponent
Pondera County NRCS Office |
| 2. OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED: | None |
| 3. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED: | Deny the request |

II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE

[Y/N]

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

N = Not Present or No Impact will occur.
Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)

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| 4. GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactable or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] This proposal lies within a large upland pediment dissected by sharp breaks. The soils are moderately deep. They vary between silt and clay loam textures. The pipeline to serve the water tank will be ripped in, and the sod will be back filled after completion. Reclamation of this line will be required. After installation, the soil profile will be backfilled, compacted, and reseeded. Seeding recommendation will be a broadcast of 40% Western Wheatgrass, 40% Green Needle grass, 20% alfalfa. Rate will be 14 # /acre. Cumulative impacts may occur due to a new source of livestock water. The area may receive more |
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II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

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| 5. WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | utilization from cattle. With proper management this can enhance the area however. |
| 6. AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I air shed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] Ground water will be impacted due to this proposal. This proposal is dependent upon a ground water source. Volume will be minimal however. |
| 7. VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There will be no impact to the air shed as a result of this proposal. |
| 8. TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] The vegetative community has the most impact from this type of proposal. The disturbance from the pipeline installation will have the most immediate impact. Proper backfilling and re-seeding will minimize this impact. The new water source will attract greater livestock numbers to the area, thus changing the dynamics of the vegetative community. This can be a positive response or a negative response depending on management. |
| 9. UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There will not be any adverse impact to fish, wildlife, or birds resulting from this proposal. |
| 10. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present? | [N] There are no endangered or threatened species or habitat present on this site. |
| 11. AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] During the field inspection there were no historic sites found. The lease records also indicated no cultural sites present within the proposed area. There are some tipi rings located within the NW1/4 of the tract, but this is well outside the proposed project area. |
| 12. DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, and AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] There are no prominent topographic features within the proposed area. |
| 13. OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area? | [N] Agriculture is basically the sole industry in the area. There are no anticipated cumulative impacts to other activities in the area resulting from this proposal. |
| | [N] None |

III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

RESOURCE

[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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| 14. HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the area? | [N] This project will not add to the health and safety of the area. |
| 15. INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities? | [N] This proposal will not add to or alter the commercial or agricultural production of the area. |
| 16. QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so, estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] This project will create a contracting job during the installation of the lines and tanks. It will also require a contract driller to drill, case, and complete the water well. |
| 17. LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] This project will not create or eliminate any tax revenue. |
| 18. DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] There will not be substantial traffic added to the area as a result of this project. |
| 19. LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect? | [N] None |
| 20. ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] There are no wilderness areas accessed through this tract. |
| 21. DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [N] None |
| 22. SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible? | [N] None |
| 23. CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area? | [N] None |
| 24. OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for current management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action? | [Y] No cumulative impacts are likely to occur as a result of this proposed action. |

EA Checklist Prepared By: STEVE DOBSON
Name

LUS
Title

Date: 12-4-07

IV. FINDING	
25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:	Approve the improvement request for installing a livestock water tank and associated pipeline.
26. SIGN4IFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:	Short-term and small-scale impacts to the native rangeland under and around the pipeline route is expected. All disturbed areas will be recontoured and reseeded to native grass according to the specifications outlined in this EA. No Archaeological sites are present within the project area. The livestock stock water project will benefit pasture distribution and improve utilization. Overall, no negative environmental impacts are expected.
27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis: <input type="checkbox"/> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> More Detailed EA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Further Analysis	

Signature	Date
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